

Letter

Dear Ernest,

Just a few quick comments on your latest LFPs which I always enjoy reading. #131 dealt with leadership. I have to admit that I don't understand this. I consider leadership a completely natural phenomenon. For example, I know almost nothing about cars so if I want my car fixed I take it to someone who knows something about it and follow the mechanic's advice. In that sense, the mechanic becomes my leader in that field. Similarly for other areas of life. If we did away with leaders I would have to know everything about life by myself; an impossible task even for non-industrial tribal peoples, let alone today.

[Editor's response: I agree completely with you about leadership, except I was speaking about leadership in government. With total Freedom, one would have a choice on which leader to heed and then would not have to obey. Today the politicians are supposed to be our leaders. They write and pass laws that we are supposed to honor and obey, even if we don't believe in them. IT'S THE LAW! Do you believe in following blindly every law these crooks make?

Are you so devoted to your auto mechanic that you would die to protect him/her? I do not say we should do away with leaders. I just say that we should be Free to be our own leader or be Free to choose a leader in something we need help with. I think I was trying to say something about "devotion," that we should be more devoted to our self, than to a leader. That is part of the PES-PIS concept.]

You also seem to imply that the PES would do away with government, but government existed long before money appeared. I don't see any necessary connection between government and money.

[Government is the King's soldiers riding around on their four wheels enforcing the King's wishes and collecting his taxes. Can you see that the super-rich people (the Kings-in-fact), control government? Can you see that money is another tool they use to control people? It has been said, "Whoever controls money—controls government! Whoever control government—controls the country, i.e., the people!" Do you believe this?]

I have noticed that you have LFP on the internet. Doesn't a high-tech society require a monetary system? I wonder if high tech and PES are compatible?

[In some of my back issues I have tried to explain how people's mental and physical labor produces everything. Money produces nothing! People can own the earth's natural resources *only* if we agree to that concept of ownership. Otherwise, how can anyone claim they own earth—they didn't create it? So, if people all work as volunteers, then there will be no monetary cost of goods and services, so then all goods and services (including high-tech) will be Free of charge.]

In #132 you talk about controlling thoughts. Do you think that possible? It seems to me possible to have freedom from thoughts by not clinging to them or trying to own them, but I doubt that one can completely control the content of thoughts any more than one can control the clouds in the sky.

[I agree with you that it is probably beyond our reach to be able to *completely* control our thoughts. The constant input from our five senses and our vast memories makes concentration difficult. We each master it as much as we are able. We achieve what success we can, in our focusing.

Everything that has entered our minds through our various senses has formed our basic premises that we reason from. This background

becomes our basis for comparison. Our judgment is based on what we have taken in. The school's indoctrination, the government's (the King's hustlers) laws, the mass media, customs, etc. have formed our basis for evaluation. As we begin to question and disbelieve some of our basic premises, we begin to see more truth. It certainly is not all truth that we have learned from history books and the mass media, is it?]

In #134 you talk about others controlling you. But, I think you really mean influence. Of course other people influence us, why shouldn't they? You try to influence people with your LFP and others try to influence us from their point of view. I don't have a t.v. and rarely read the mass media, but that doesn't mean that others don't influence me. I just like to pick and choose my influences. No one exists alone and completely isolated.

T.W.

CA

[I was talking about *control* by a parent, mate, friend, employer, church, drugs, booze, cigarettes, etc. I agree there is influence, too. The trouble is that we are not aware of most of the subtle influences that have kept us in wage-slavery. If we become *aware* of the subtle influences, *then* we can pick and choose and it is no longer mind-control.

The more we question authority, the more truth we discover! I have sometimes noticed how highly suggestible I am. I never even noticed it before, when I was busily engaged in trying to keep my bills paid. I begin to ask myself which of my beliefs are truth and which are untrue suggestions that have been cleverly implanted into my belief system. If you don't think that people can be controlled—just take a look at all the couch potatoes there are today!

That is exactly what I was trying to say, we should *take* the

Freedom to pick and choose which ideas we wish to use. Why should we re-invent the wheel, right?]

Latest News?

It is such a wonderful feeling to not be worried, harried, stressed and full of tension and anxiety about what's going on in the news. I have no idea of who's running for what office. I don't know what the stock market is doing, nor the GNP. I have no idea where the U.S. government is sending troops. I don't know what movies are playing. I don't know how many people were killed in earthquakes, revolutions or auto accidents. I don't know which foods are now on the "no-no" list. I don't know what "they" think the weather will be like tomorrow. That much I can see for myself by just stepping outdoors and looking at the sky.

This attitude is counter to what I was taught. "Read widely and have a broad general knowledge of current events. Be (able to spread the current fear-mongering and be) recognized as an informed person."

No thank you! I have already done that. I was part of the flock. A good obedient wage-slave. I think that now at age 69, I'm starting to wise-up and leave the folly of the flock behind me.

I live in my own little world that I exert some control over. I try to find more ways to become Independent of people, government and money. My present high-priority plan is to buy 40 acres of wooded land and develop a home base and be able to raise my own food and have free fuel for heating. Perhaps build a wind-mill and a small wood-burning steam engine to make electricity. Then come-what-may from the manipulators—I'll have a much less worrisome and more secure means of survival and Freedom.

Here is one of those sneaky paragraphs that I have inserted occasionally. I use it to cull-out subscribers who don't read my work. If you read this and wish to remain a subscriber, send me a little note saying so. If I don't hear

from *you*, within 30 days, your subscription will be canceled and your balance of postage will be refunded to you.

Time

I brought home a four month old Time Magazine from the library. I thumbed through it and looked at all the pictures and ads. There was nothing that interested me enough to read, but after finishing my skimming I did feel more inspired to work a little harder to try to relieve the suffering that some people are trapped into.

To see the suffering-pictures and to recognize the wasteful and wrong-things that the Profit/Wage System is causing, can make a thinking-person encouraged to promote a better system.

The solution to the world-wide people's major problems seems so very simple. It gets very frustrating sometimes when one is unable to get people to understand how wonderful the world will be for everyone if we could use the Priceless Economic System.

Converting to the PES will be such a simple procedure that it too is almost unbelievable.

As I have said many times before, we must *first* show people that there is a viable alternative to the Profit/Wage System.

Our problem is not, "How do we convince 5.5 billion people?" but how do I convince just one person to step out of their lethargic state of acceptance of the status quo? How do *I* show them the *truth* of the PES-PIS so clearly that they also begin promoting it and living it to the best of their ability?

If I knew the answer to this, I would have already succeeded in changing the whole world over into a near-Utopian system.

We few believers in the PES-PIS, who are actually trying to live this Free system (as is Patch Adams) are experiencing much better, happier and less stressful lives than we did before. So we are succeeding in learning how to make our lives better for ourselves.

We no longer believe in the myth that Government-will-take-care-of-us.

We are no longer allowing Entertainment to suck up our valuable time. No, we use that time to make ourselves more Independent and Self-sufficient.

Recreation, vacations and the entire Entertainment industry were created to keep us from going crazy. To *really* realize we are Wage-Slaves would make one feel crazy. The Profit/Wage System could not allow that. It provides entertainment, recreation, holidays, vacations and mass media diversions to keep us from that realization.

It must have wage-slaves to exploit or it could not make a Profit. That is, if they exchanged products and services on an equal basis and paid employees their fair-share of their productivity, there would be no Profit! To exchange fairly, i.e., dollar for dollar, there is no profit.

How can anyone say that an hour of their time (life) is worth more to them, than an hour of my time is worth to me?

If we were to settle this by paying everyone the same hourly wage, then why bother with wages at all? The PES eliminates a tremendous amount of unnecessary jobs. Volunteering our work is much more fun than being forced to work. Giving is more fun than selling. Getting Free things is more fun than spending money.

The more people who understand the PES-PIS and actively promote it—the faster it begins to pyramid out to reach everyone. Let's Do It!

Shoveling

Roger Byam, the story teller in the book, MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY, thinks to himself, "Adopting . . . tropical philosophy, I put the past and the future out of mind . . . the happiest period of my entire life—I enjoyed each day to the fullest."

I'm a little over half way through this book, published in 1932. (I haven't been reading it

that long.) Aside from all the drama and adventure in this story, this little chunk of meat, the authors threw in, hit me at just the right time. Lately I have been noticing again how I just shovel my food into my mouth without even tasting it, after the first bite. I enjoy the first bite and then think about something else during the rest of the meal. I have tried occasionally to enjoy more mouthfuls and succeeded for a short time and then my mind gets occupied on other thoughts—so I miss the sweet *here and now*.

This hunk of meat in this novel has made me decide to put a much higher priority on my NOW. I'm going to put extra effort into keeping my thoughts on whatever I'm doing. I suspect I'll get it done much better and enjoy it more. This will especially apply to my meals. Probably sex as well.

I suspect there may be grunt jobs that I will not care to do this with. I'll try to watch and see.

J. Krishnamurti, wrote several books on living in the NOW. It is interesting to discover that he was not the first person to think these thoughts. But he did enlarge on them.

Tensions

About a year ago I first noticed that when riding a bicycle I hold my left shoulder very tense. I tried riding without holding tension there and it worked just fine. Now when I catch myself with that tension, I relax it.

I know it is not good to hold useless tension. It leads to all kinds of trouble.

Recently, I noticed that when I eat, I get my legs and arms all tensed up. That is not necessary for just a simple eating process. It's like I'm getting all tensed up to start a race. That is what my eating has been—a race to get done quick and then race to do my few dishes quickly and go to the next race in my day. What a silly old fool I have been.

Also, I've recently noticed that when reading a novel, I have my arms more tense than necessary to

hold the book. I'm healthy now, but what will I be like after I've discovered all my tension points and learn to relax them? I may then live forever! Ha, ha.

I can see that I have allowed the Profit System to make a race horse out of me. Now that I'm getting more aware of this fact, I can begin to relax and experience this NOW, that we read about.

Today I caught myself holding my stomach tense while I was spreading peanut butter on my toast. Now, I'll admit that is a very serious project, but what harm would have come from *not* doing a meticulous job of it?

What harm indeed! Just one slip with that butter knife, and World War III could have been started. Who knows what evil lurks in one poorly spread peanut butter sandwich? You just can't be too careful!

Look at how Rome burned to the ground when some guy played his fiddle. And how Chicago burned just because Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked. Look what happened when Hitler quit paper-hanging. Look what happened when Regan quit Hollywood. And what about Maxwell Smart when he lost his shoe-telephone. What about Castro when he ran out of cigars—Castro ended up taking over Cuba.

No! We must be very careful about the small things—you just can't tell what they could lead to.

Newsletter Review

ACHOO! Gesundheit!, Patch Adams, M.D. 6877 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22213. 12 pages. Patch is a clown and a Free healer and founder of a Free hospital.

ACHOO! has news about what's happening with the building of their five million dollar hospital and about the lives of their group and their living situation and the fun they have in their work.

Patch gave his medical work, free of charge, for 15 years. He uses humor and anything else that works to make people well. He is putting the PES into practice in

his own life right now! He wrote a great book too.

I met Patch a few years ago. He is a dynamo of fun, dedication and friendship.

But best-of-all in this issue, Vol. 12, No. 1, there is a group of very inspiring statements. I believe LFP readers would find them invaluable. Try to get a copy of it. Send them a donation.

Back Issues of LFP

Back issues of LFP are becoming collector's items. They are more interesting, have much better ideas to share and are guaranteed to make you *feel* more hopeful than the mass media mud monger. They are available from:

Duncan Ryan
Box 640
Elk River, MN 55330

Send him a stamp for an LFP back-issue catalog-sheet that has a review of each issue and prices.

Book Distributor

My friend at the Marathon International Book Company, has become so tied-up with his new job that he is unable to continue handling my books and is sending them back to me.

Books

My two books, I WAS ROBOT, 1990, \$7.95 and FREE I GOT, 1993, \$8.95 (both postpaid) These books show the evolution of my reasoning from anger against the Vietnam War to the PES. They also explain why and how I managed to retire at age 42 in 1969.

Both books are now available from me at bottom-line address.

Internet Address

For free LFP newsletters and free LFP books, download from:

<http://www.smart.net/~banneker>

Subscriptions

The LFP seems to be coming out about two or three times a month. The LFP is "free" but you pay the postage for each issue.

U.S.A.: \$0.32, Canada: \$0.52, Mexico: \$0.46, All others: \$1.00

Please pay with US stamps, US money, check or IRC's for as many future issues as you desire.

Reprinting Permissible **FREE**
2-28-96 Ernest Mann

How I Manage My Slaves

Slaves need electricity so that they can stay up later to work and study to be able to pay their electric bills and pay for all of their fine labor saving machines which enable them to finish their work in time to get some recreation which will help them feel more like going back to their jobs to earn money to live their wonderful lives as slaves.

They are lucky to be allowed to buy all of the wonderful things which make work and play so much easier. If they didn't buy these fine things they would have no reason to work for money.

The poor people who take their food from the land and who sleep where ever they can, deprive themselves of the need to work for money. This further deprives them of a need to buy and store fine labor saving devices. They don't seem to realize the fact that they are holding back progress. If they could be forced to consume more and work, we could increase our gross national production which is usefull to keep this excellent system going for us. Consumption can be increased by making welfare and government grant money more available.

It is becoming necessary to provide better working conditions to stop slaves from dropping out. As more drop out and provide for their own needs and direct their own lives it leaves less people to control them. It is necessary to keep them dependent on jobs or government money to maintain our control.

We must find ways to keep them from dropping out of our schools too. Here we mainly teach them to obey orders, respect our laws and love their country, coincidently, we teach them a trade or profession with which they will minister to our needs and whims or to the needs of our other servants. We could teach them on-the-job much faster and better but it takes more time to complete their obedience training.

Those who take care of their own needs are difficult to enslave. We must encourage people to become dependent in every area that it is possible to do so.

Alexander Warbucks

September 6, 1978